



## SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

28 April 2020

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 3)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meeting on April 21 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising

- Dan, Luc and Maria need to discuss the budget for the SSC 2020.

#### 3. Corona virus

- Guidance issued by Sweden's authorities and implemented by SIPRI remains in force:
  - work from home if you can and
  - avoid using public transportation.
- That means that all SIPRI staff is strongly advised to continue working from home until further notice.

#### 4. Report back

- The news of nomination of Ramtane Lamamra as SIPRI Board member has roused opposition online, mainly expressed through Twitter and Facebook, emails and voice messages. SMT is both responding and seeking advice. Psychological help will be made available to affected staff members, if need be.
- Steph reported back on the results of the latest AMEX data launch. As of midday April 28, it has already been covered in over 2100 traditional media outlets globally. On Monday April 27, social media campaign generated over 220 000 organic impressions on Twitter; the top tweet was retweeted over 290 times and liked over 370 times.
- Steph informed the SMT that a grant from the Swiss government of 150,000 CHF for translations of the Yearbook has been secured. Steph expressed her gratitude to Maria and Lena for facilitating the agreement. Regrettably, the Swedish government has announced that it will stop financing the Arabic translation of the YB.
- Luc reported that the current situation had a positive impact on the implementation of the cluster project on China-EU connectivity. The travel ban meant interviews could only be conducted online. This offered extra time and an opportunity to increase the number of interviewees and the number of countries covered by the research initiative.
- Luc flagged the need to coordinate Covid-19 related research initiatives at SIPRI at an early stage, with the view of achieving a better internal coherence and avoiding submitting competing proposals to same donors. One way to proceed would be to suggest that all Covid-19 related project ideas should be submitted to the SMT first. Dan reminded the

SMT that there will be a Covid-19 related discussion at the third high-level Forum panel on May 13 and the Governing Board will tackle the pandemic at its meeting on May 25-26. We can convene an all-staff discussion on this subject matter after the Board.

- The SMT agreed that there is no need for a general partnership between SIPRI and Friends of Europe. Luc will inform interlocutors at FoE accordingly.
- Sigrún provided the latest update on the preparations for the Forum. The registration link will be made available shortly; all staff will be able to get access to the entire content of the virtual Forum. Our Board members will be invited to contribute to the panels.
- Dan and Sigrún have been informed by the MFA about the decision to allocate the strategic grant to SIPRI only for the current year instead of the previously agreed three years. This is due to the COVID 19 pandemic and that multi-year decisions can not be taken for the moment, The decision on SIPRI support through a strategic grant during 2021 and 2022 is expected in autumn this year.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Per Olsson Fridh, the State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, has offered to participate in an all-staff virtual meeting on May 8. This is a great opportunity to present and to promote some of our work to this dynamic and knowledgeable high state representative. Sigrún will follow up.
- Dan and SIPRI have been invited to participate in a research project entitled “Avoid war!” by MGIMO – Moscow State Institute for International Relations (University). The project focusses on avoiding/preventing nuclear risks. Dan will join the first introductory zoom meeting on April 28. After that, decision will be taken on who at SIPRI can take this initiative further.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Quite a few recruitments are still underway.

6. KPIs for SIPRI

- There is still work to be done to complete the comprehensive exercise of measuring what we do in terms of research, operations and outreach as per our latest Institute strategy. The initial idea was to present and to discuss the results of this compilation at the Board meeting in May; however, the virtual format of the Board meeting does not leave enough space for a proper discussion of strategy indicators and baseline. Maria, Fred and Nikos will continue compiling the feedback from the programs and update the document as soon as possible and send it to SMT for a final discussion in a separate meeting.

7. MFA strategic grant: Internal budget

- The SMT endorsed the document prepared and distributed by Maria on the internal budget for the projects that will be funded under the MFA strategic grant in 2020.

8. UNHCR Partnership: Virtual signing, roundtable – SIPRI participants

- Elena informed the SMT about the latest discussion with the UNHCR counterparts on virtual signing of the detailed MoU between SIPRI and the UNHCR. Since the UN agency is very keen on signing the MoU, and the High Commissioner will personally attend the virtual signing ceremony, one of the ideas is to use this opportunity to convene a broader round table discussion with the participation of UNHCR experts, SIPRI researchers and representatives of Sweden’s MFA. The most obvious topic would be the impact of Covid-19 on displacement patterns and on the displaced under the broader headline of analyzing the root-causes of displacement which lies at the core of the future knowledge partnership. Because of the limited time, the SMT adjourned the discussion until its next meeting on May 5.

9. AOB

- NTR.

**Action Points**

- Discuss the budget for SSC 2020 - Dan, Luc and Maria
- Write to the Friends of Europe to decline their proposal for a partnership - Luc
- Feedback from the “Avoid war!” MGIMO first project meeting – Dan
- Finalize the KPIs – Maria, Fred, Nikos

**Items carried forward**

- UNHCR Partnership – Virtual signing of the MoU, format, participants
- Speakers for the SSC-2020
- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy